

Minnesota UNDERGROUND

How appropriate it is, in this place where miners from many nations unlocked nature's hidden treasure and extracted the richest iron ore, that today scientists from many nations are again working this mine to wrest from this very same billion-year-old rock formation a new load of riches as old as the origin of the universe itself—the baffling neutrino.”

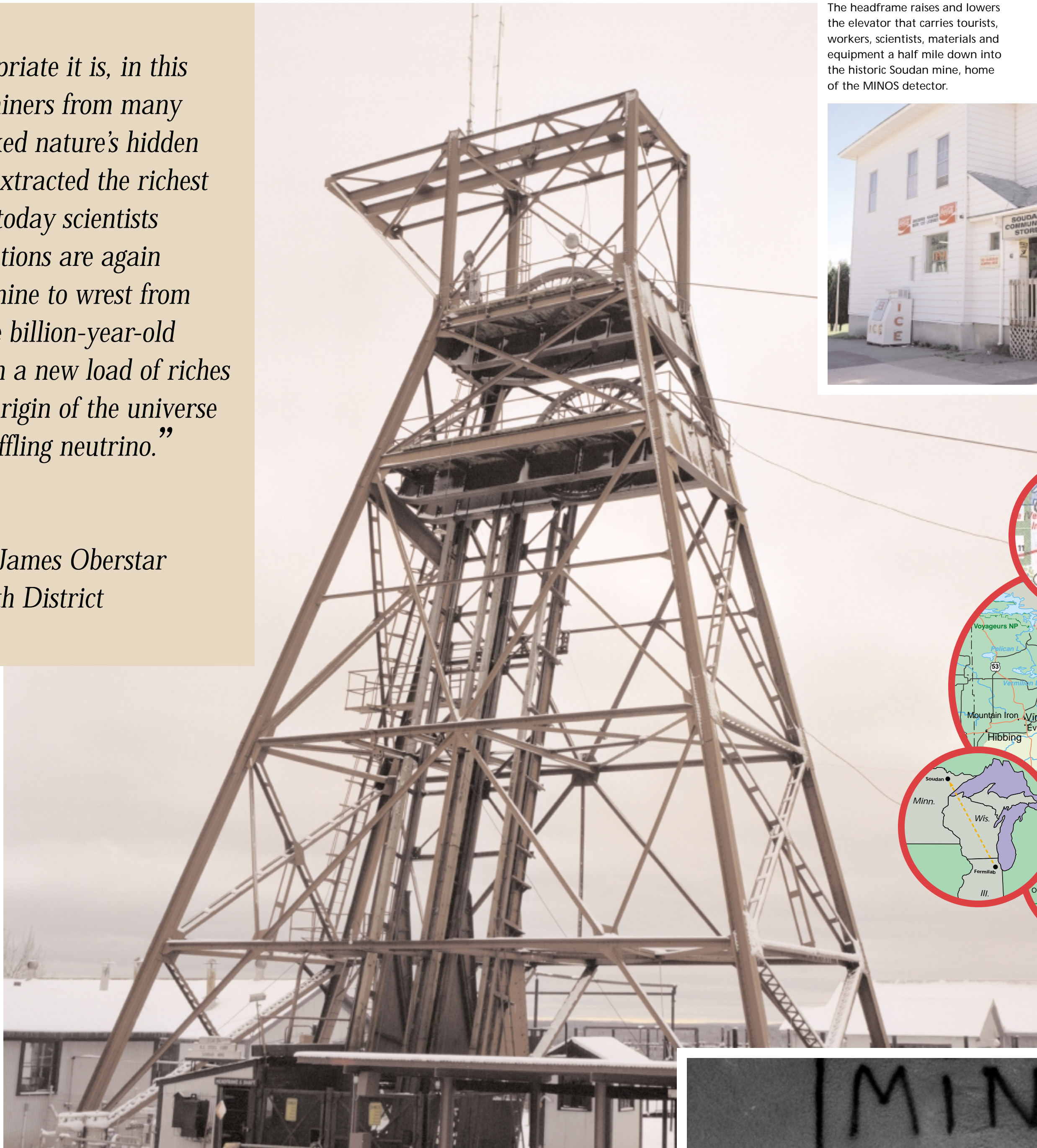
July 20, 1999

Congressman James Oberstar
Minnesota's 8th District

The headframe raises and lowers the elevator that carries tourists, workers, scientists, materials and equipment a half mile down into the historic Soudan mine, home of the MINOS detector.



Beautiful downtown Soudan, Minnesota.



Thousands of visitors each year tour the Soudan Mine, a Minnesota historic site operated by the state's Department of Natural Resources. Here, a model "miner" illustrates life in the former iron mine.



The MINOS cavern will hold the 90 x 24 foot steel and plastic detector.



Officials from the Department of Energy, the State of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota and Fermilab broke (under)ground for the MINOS detector cavern on July 20, 1999.